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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION,
PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Sixth session
9-20 January 1995
Agenda item 2

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations

Organization and programme of work for the interim period

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling the adoption, on 17 June 1994, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling also its resolutions 5/1 on urgent action for Africa and 5/2 on interim arrangements, of 17 June 1994, taking into account article 7 of the Convention,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 49/234, of 23 December 1994, by which the General Assembly decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall continue to function in order to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties, to facilitate the implementation of the INCD resolution on urgent action for Africa, to initiate measures relating to the identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism, including its operational modalities, to elaborate the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, and to consider other relevant issues, including measures to ensure the implementation of the Convention and its regional annexes,

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Recognizing the need to carry out this new and important mandate as soon as possible to ensure the prompt and effective implementation of the Convention upon its entry into force and to facilitate urgent action for Africa and to promote action in other regions,

Mindful of the limited time available and of the need for simple and flexible working arrangements,

1. Decides to establish two working groups with the following mandates:

(a) Working Group I is responsible for the following issues: to initiate measures relating to the identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including its operational modalities; to make recommendations for the designation by the Conference of the Parties of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning; financial rules, programme and budget;

(b) Working Group II is responsible for the following issues: organization of scientific and technological cooperation, in particular the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology, the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts, and the terms of reference and modalities of work of any ad hoc panels that the Conference of the Parties may decide to appoint; rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties; procedures on questions of implementation; procedures for conciliation and arbitration; and procedures for communication of information for the review of implementation of the Convention and its institutional arrangements;

2. Decides also that, in addition to the supervision of the two Working Groups, the Plenary is responsible for the following issues: the facilitation of the implementation of the resolution on urgent action for Africa through the exchange of information and the review of progress made thereon and the promotion of action in other regions, the agenda for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, coordination with other conventions, cooperation with relevant bodies or agencies, and public awareness activities;

3. Decides further that,

(a) The Bureau of each Working Group shall consist of one chairman and two vice-chairmen; additional officers may be appointed by the Committee if required;

(b) The Chairman of each Working Group shall be an ex officio member of the Bureau of the other Working Group;

(c) Bureau members shall work in close cooperation with the Bureau of the Committee;

(d) The Plenary and the two Working Groups shall organize their work in such a way that no more than two meetings are held within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at the same time;

(e) The two Working Groups should complete their work expeditiously and, in any case, during the last INCD session preceding the first session of the Conference of the Parties in order to allow for its effective functioning from the very first day;

4. Requests the Secretariat to prepare documentation, including inter alia compilation of information and Governments' views, with a view to facilitating the deliberations of the Committee at the seventh session on the following issues: identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism, financial rules, programme and budget, designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning, scientific and technological cooperation, draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, procedures for communication of information and review of implementation, as well as measures taken by Member States and international and other relevant organizations;

5. Requests also the Secretariat, subject to review at the seventh session, to prepare documentation on the following issues with a view to facilitating the deliberations of the Committee at the eighth session: procedures to resolve questions on implementation, draft annexes on conciliation and arbitration;

6. Invites INCD members, United Nations programmes and agencies, as well as relevant intergovernmental organizations, to submit to the Secretariat updated reports on measures taken or planned for the implementation of the urgent action for Africa and action in other regions and requests the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of such reports for the seventh session;

7. Recommends to the General Assembly that, pending the first session of the Conference of the Parties, the Committee hold two sessions of up to two weeks each in 1996 and two sessions of up to two weeks each in 1997, the venue and timing of which will be decided by the General Assembly on recommendation of the Committee at the seventh session.